Circular No. 16/97–98, the Government has permitted export of 5000 MTs of powder milk.

The export of HPS-Groundnut and seasame seeds have been permitted freely during the current licensing year 1997–98, keeping in view their availability and the exports made during the preceeding years.

Further as per the Policy Circular No. 14/97–98 dated 30th July, 1997, exporters are also required to furnish a statement regarding the quantity of seasame seed exported alongwith the copy of shipping bills within 30 days from the date of export.

Presumptive Tax Scheme

664. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWARD :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for presumptive tax involving payment of Rs. 1400 per annum as tax from small entrepreneurs and professionals was an utter failure;

(b) if so, the actual collections made during the respective years, as compared to the estimated expected figure; and

(c) whether the main reasons for failure of the scheme was lack of will on the part of collection of taxes and collusion between tax payers and collector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The statistics of number of persons opting for the Presumptive Tax Scheme suggest that the scheme did not yield the desired results.

(b) The statistics relating to the number of forms received and tax collections under the Presumptive Tax Scheme during the period 1992–93 to 1996–97 are as under:

Financial Year	No. of Forms under PTS	Collection under PTS
		(Rupees in crores)
1992–93	1,16,644	16.47
1993–94	1,95,600	27.53
1994–95	3,56,322	49.96
1995–96	2,51,824	35.39
1996–97	1,58,733	22.73

No separate targets were fixed for tax collection under the scheme.

(c) No Sir.

[Translation]

Export/Import Growth of STC/MMTC

665. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export/import growth of STC/MMTC during the Seventh and Eighth Plan period; and

(b) the new proposals to make STC/MMTC more competitive as a Trading House of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Year-wise export/import turnover of STC/MMTC during the 7th and 8th Plan period are as follows:—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	STC		MMTC	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
7th Plan				
1985–86	378	2158	622.6	2367.1
1986–87	542	2179	711.7	2037.4
1987–88	581	3037	728.4	2118.7
1988–89	530	2045	872.6	2971.4
1989–90	752	1070	1148.3	3914.5
8th Plan				
1992–93	551	324	1674.9	3368.4
1993–94	798	239	1371.3	1699.3
1994–95	806	965	1368.3	3662.1
1995–96	749	858	1375.6	4450.8
1996–97	513	1896	1336.6	3406.9

(b) consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of items earlier canalised through STC and MMTC, both the Corporations have made an endeavour to reorient its trading activities in a manner consistent with the

liberalised economy and competitive environment in the fields of :—

— Emphasis on direct buying and selling operations in commodities like Coffee, tea, jute goods, oilseeds extractions;

— Development of captive supply base through joint ventures in the steel sector with Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) for setting up of an iron and steel plant and Konark Met Coke Ltd. (KMCL) for producing coke and then supply to NINL for consumption in the blast furnance;

— Diversification of trading activities in new areas like gold and silver and export of jewellery and consolidation of the existing ones;

— Strengthening overseas market network and ware-housing by way of setting up of wholly owned subsidiaries;

— Infrastructural development for ensuring smooth and efficient handling of bulk items of export/ import;

— Diversification of trading activities by MMTC in the non-traditional area of agro-products etc.

Legal Aid to Poor People

666. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Maharashtra under the Legal Aid Scheme for poor people during 1995–96, 1996–97 and 1997–98, till date; and

(b) the steps taken to streamline the above system and to ensure assistance to the needy people in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The allocation of Central Funds is not done on "State Basis". The expenses of the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards etc. are met out of the State Funds provided by the respective State Governments. The grants-in-aid released to the Maharashtra State Legal Aid & Advice Board etc. during the financial years 1995–96, 1996–97 and 1997–98, till date, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount of the grant-in-aid released (in Rupees)
(1)	1995–96	—
(2)	1996–97	2,05,000
(3)	1997–98 (upto 18.11.1997)	3,00,000

(b) The proposal is afoot to convene a meeting of the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to further streamline and review the system to ensure that financial assistance provided to the State Legal Services Authorities could be more effectively utilised for implementation of various Legal Aid Programmes envisaged under the said Act.

[English]

Taxes Pending Against Big Corporate Sector Companies

667. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the big corporate sector companies who borrowed more than Rs. 500 crore as on April 1, 1997 from the Indian banks and financial institutions, etc.;

(b) the Government liabilities pending against the above mentioned corporate sector companies like excise, customs and income tax etc.; and

(c) the total amount of borrowings as well as the total amount of liabilities against each such company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the rules.

[Translation]

Wholesale Price Index

668. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include some more services under the Wholesale Price Index;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include telephone and transport service under the Wholesale Price Index:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The government have set up a Working Grounp to revise the current series of the Wholesale Price Index so as to reflect the structural changes that have occurred in the economy since 1981–82 - the base year of the current series. The Working Group would review the composition of the existing index and suggest items that would merit inclusion or exclusion in the new series, together with the new base year. The analysis undertaken by the Working Group is at an advanced stage.